

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE

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FOR ASST SEC ROGERS IN NAIROBI

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (SEC TREAS SIMON)

SUBJECT: SECRETARY SIMON'S VISIT TO CHILE

SECRETARY SIMON APPEARED ON THE TODAY SHOW MORNING OF MAY
3.FOLLOWING IS THE EXCHANGE WHICH TOOK PLACE CONCERNING
HIS APPROACHING VISIT IN CHILE:

BARBARA UALTERS: MR. SECRETARY, IT'S BEEN REPORTED THAT
YOU ARE LEAVING FOR SOUTH AMERICA SHORTLY, AND OVER THE
WEEKEND, I HAPPENED TO MEET WITH SOME REPRESENTATIVES OF
AN ORGANIZATION CALLED AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL. AND THEY
REPORTED THAT YOU ARE NEGOTIATING A DEAL TO VISIT CHILE,
AND THAT IN RETURN FOR YOUR VISITING CHILE, THE PRESIDENT
OF CHILE WILL RELEASE A LARGE NUMBER OF THEIR POLITICAL
PRISONERS. COULD YOU GIVE US THE DETAILS OF THIS? FIRST
OF ALL, IS THIS SO?

SECRETARY SIMON: YES, I'LL BE GOING TO SOUTH AMERICA. I
LEAVE ON THURSDAY MORNING, BARBARA, AND I WILL BE IN CHILE
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AND BRAZIL, AND END UP AT THE GOVERNORS' MEETING OF THE

INTERAMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK OVER NEXT WEEKEND. AND MY
PRIMARY MISSION, OF COURSE, IS ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL IN
NATURE. WE WISH TO HELP THOSE COUNTRIES TO HELP THEMSELVES
NOW, CHILE IN PARTICULAR HAS ADOPTED ECONOMIC POLICIES

TO GIVE MORE FREEDOM TO THE INDIVIDUAL, AND WE AMERICANS
UNDERSTAND THE INEXTRICABLE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR
ECONOMIC FREEDOMS AND OUR PERSONAL AND SOCIAL FREEDOMS.
AND THAT'S IMPORTANT. AND SO, WE WANT TO MAKE SURE THAT
THESE POLICIES ARE STRENGTHENED, AND THAT WE BEGIN TO
DEAL WITH THE TERRIBLE PROBLEM OF HUMAN REPRESSION THAT
HAS UPSET PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD, INDEED, AND ESPECIALLY
HERE IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. IN CHILE, AND IN
OUR INSTITUTIONAL REFORMS IN THE AREA OF PAROLE, AND
HABEAS CORPUS, AND, OF COURSE, THERE ARE THOSE THAT ARE
BEING HELD IN PRISON FOR THEIR POLITICAL BELIEFS, AND I
HOPE TO MAKE SOME GREAT PROGRESS ON THE FRONT LINE THERE.

MS. WALTERS: ...DO YOU THINK WILL BE RELEASED? HOW MANY
ARE IN THE PRISONS, AND HOW MANY DO YOU THINK YOU WILL BE
ABLE TO EFFECT RELEASE FOR, AND ARE THESE ALL CHILEANS,
OR ARE SOME OF THEM AMERICANS AS WELL?

SEC SIMON: WELL, IT WOULD BE PREMATURE FOR ME TO SPECULATE
WHAT THE RESULTS MIGHT BE ON MY TRIP. IT WOULD BE INDEED
INADVISABLE. BUT I'M OPTIMISTIC THAT I'M GOING TO BE
ABLE TO SECURE THE RELEASE OF QUITE A FEW PEOPLE.

IRVING LEVINE: TO FOLLOW UP ON BARBARA'S QUESTION, ON
WHAT DO YOU BASE THAT OPTIMISM? DO YOU HAVE SOME ASSURANCE
FROM THE CHILEANS?

SEC SIMON: WELL, WE'VE BEEN TALKING TO THEM FOR THE LAST
4 TO 6 WEEKS ABOUT THESE VARIOUS ISSUES, - TO STRENGTHEN
OUR ECONOMIC TIES BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES, BECAUSE,
CLEARLY, THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT OF CHILE IS IN THE BEST
INTERESTS OF THE UNITED STATES, AND INDEED THE WORLD,
MOVING TOWARD GREATER FREEDOM FOR THEIR PEOPLE. WELL,
THEY WANT TO DEMONSTRATE THIS GREATER FREEDOM FOR THEIR
PEOPLE, AND SHOW THE WORLD THAT THEY'RE NOT GUILTY OF
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THE HUMAN REPRESSION, AND MAKE THE DEMONSTRABLE STEPS
THAT WILL INDEED SHOW THIS. MAW

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